



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 26, 2015 at 3:00 pm

by  
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### **HB 556 HD1 – RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports this measure that would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the appropriateness of affording the benefits of civil service under HRS Chapter 76 and collective bargaining under HRS Chapter 89 to employees of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH).

The University of Hawai'i opposed the original version of HB 556 and maintains that any proposed measure to place RCUH employees in a bargaining unit or under civil service law would compromise UH's research projects, which require the recruitment and retention of specialized employees, and significantly jeopardize the University's world-renowned research and training enterprise.

RCUH exemptions from state statutes on matters relating to procurement and personnel (HRS Chapter 304A - 3001 to 3011) has given UH the needed flexibility to continue its research excellence in areas such as agriculture, astronomy, medicine, oceanography and renewable energy.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.